

## COMBAT VETERAN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION TABLE COMBAT ZONES, HOSTILITIES and MEDALS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must use and refer to the Department of Defense (DOD) website <http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller> to maintain the listing of designated hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas. Although DOD Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger pay existed prior to November 11, 1998, only proof of such pay on or after November 11, 1998, is acceptable.

**NOTE:** The DOD website, the definitions, and the table provided in this Attachment should assist in the determination of combat veteran eligibility.

### 1. Definitions

a. **Combat Service.** Veterans who served in combat during a period of war after the Gulf War, or against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, qualify, and are eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for 2 years after discharge from the military for any illness.

(1) Co-payments may be charged for those conditions which the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) finds resulted from a cause other than such combat service.

(2) Combat zones are designated by an Executive Order from the President as areas in which the United States (U.S.) Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. An area usually becomes a combat zone and ceases to be a combat zone on the dates the President designates by Executive Order.

b. **Hostilities or Imminent Danger Pay.** Hostile fire pay is defined as pay to anyone exposed to hostile fire or mine explosion, while imminent danger pay is paid to anyone on duty outside the United States area who is subject to physical harm or imminent danger due to wartime conditions, terrorism, civil insurrection, or civil war.

c. **Medals.** Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (does not include Global War on Terrorism Medal); Kosovo Campaign Medal; and Southwest Asia Campaign Medal.

**NOTE:** This listing is current as of the date of publication of this directive. For the most current listing please see <http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/07a/07A10.pdf>

### 2. Table Designating Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay Areas after November 11, 1998

AREA	INCLUDES	EFFECTIVE	TERMINATED
Adriatic Sea	Sea area and airspace	Apr 12, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
Afghanistan	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Albania	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	Mar 31, 2002

AREA	INCLUDES	EFFECTIVE	TERMINATED
Algeria	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Angola	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Arabian Peninsula *	Locations and airspace above: Persian Gulf and land area of Saudi Arabia	Nov 11, 1998	
Arabian Peninsula *	Surface area of the following sea boundaries: Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea	Sep 19, 2001	
Azerbaijan	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Bahrain	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Burundi	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Cambodia	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	Oct 31, 2001
Colombia	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	Land area	Feb 27, 2003	
Croatia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Djibouti	Land area	July 31, 2002	
East Timor	Land area	Sept 30, 1999	Oct 28, 1999
	Land area and airspace	Oct 29, 1999	Oct 31, 2001
	Land area	Nov 1, 2001	
Egypt	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
El Salvador	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	May 31, 2001
Eritrea	Land	July 31, 2002	
Ethiopia	Land area	Sep 13, 1999	
Georgia, Republic of	Land area	July 31, 2002	
Greece **	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Haiti	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Hungary **	Land area	May 31, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
Indonesia	Land area	Oct 31, 2001	
Ionian Sea **	Sea area and airspace	Apr 12, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
Iran	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Iraq	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Israel	Land area	Jan 31, 2002	
Italy **	Land area	May 31, 1999	Sep 15, 1999
Jordan	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	

\*Arabian Peninsula and adjacent sea areas that include Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

\*\*For detailed specific information regarding designated hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas for these countries, refer to the website citation.

AREA	INCLUDES	EFFECTIVE	TERMINATED
Kenya	Land area	July 31, 2002	
Kuwait	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Kyrgyzstan	Land area	Sep 19, 2001	
Lebanon	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Liberia	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Macedonia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Malaysia	Land area	Oct 31, 2001	
Mediterranean Sea	Sea area	Apr 11, 2003	July 31, 2003
Montenegro	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Oman	Land area	Sep 19, 2001	
Pakistan	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Peru	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	Dec 31, 2001
Philippines	Land area	Oct 31, 2001	
Qatar	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Rwanda	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Saudi Arabia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Serbia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Sierra Leone	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Somalia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Sudan	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Syria	Land area	July 31, 2003	
Tajikistan	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	
Turkey **	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Uganda	Land area	Jan 19, 2000	
United Arab Emirates	Land area	Sep 19, 2001	
Uzbekistan	Land area	Sep 19, 2001	
Yemen	Land area	May 25, 1999	
Yugoslavia	Land area and airspace	Nov 11, 1998	
Zaire	Land area	Nov 11, 1998	

*\*Arabian Peninsula and adjacent sea areas that include Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.*

*\*\*For detailed specific information regarding designated hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas for these countries, refer to the website citation.*

**\*\*\*New Areas Added by DoD as Eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM)**

DoD has approved Columbia and Guantanamo Bay as additions to the designated areas of eligibility for award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM). Soldiers serving in these areas on or after September 2001 in support of GWOT operations (OEF/OIF) are authorized to be awarded the GWOTEM.

While Colombia and Guantanamo Bay do not fall under current areas of “hostilities” for Combat Veteran status as noted in VHA Directive 2005-020, “Determining Combat Veteran Status”, receipt of the GWOTEM does qualify a veteran for such status. To be eligible the veteran must show written proof of receipt of the medal via his or her DD-214 noting award of the GWOTEM, official service records, or military orders of the award; presentation of the medal or service in Columbia or Guantanamo Bay alone does not constitute eligibility for Combat veteran status.

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